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LB 510

I'm not going to prolong a discussion on this proposal. I have not lobbied individual senators on this. I'm aware that the Governor has been exerting tremendous pressure on various senators. Some have said not so; others know that that pressure has been exerted because they've had it applied to them on several occasions. I'm well aware of this. What is being voted on this morning is not really the merits of this bill. This bill is not as consequential as it has become. Had it been voted down on General File it would have just been another of those defeats that I suffer, and I might have grumbled and I might have tweaked a senator here and there, but I lose bills. I lost one much more significant than this in my felony murder bill. But you didn't see me reacting the way I have to this bill. It is not a bill of any consequence to the Governor or the operation of any agencies under his control, none whatsoever. I wish people could be as forthright as Senator Matzke, who just told me that the Governor's people got to him. He acknowledged it forthrightly to me. Others will not, even though some people have seen the Governor's people emerging from offices, and some feel the need to be very careful in how they phrase the statement by saying, the Governor didn't talk to me. Well, I'm not saying the Governor personally talked to everybody, but in his veto message he said this system has worked well from the day that it was put in place. I have not brought the current Attorney General into this discussion, however, he would be the perfect Exhibit A in favor of it. The Appropriations Committee is aware of millions of dollars that the state is going to have to spend as a direct result of mishandling of various pieces of litigation by the Attorney General. In the water fight with Kansas, the Attorney General had been assuring everybody, for political reasons, that these wells and such related items will have nothing to do with the lawsuit, and I'm not going to go into detail on any of these suits. But the special master has said, oh, but that is a part of it. And when the Attorney General had to acknowledge that he was wrong he said, well, if there's a problem it won't come to fruition for 25 years. That's not the way a lawyer for the state handles legal business. There have been at least five instances where the federal court has found him to have been guilty of filing frivolous actions in connection with the nuclear waste dump and those kind of activities have exposed the state to perhaps tens of millions of dollars in liability, and